

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ARA-10 EA-09 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 COME-00

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TO ALL EUROPEAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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AMEMBASSY NEW DEHLI

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AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, OCON

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON THE STRATOSPHERIC OZONE LAYER

1. SUBJECT MEETING, SPONSORED BY THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (UNEP), WILL BE HOSTED BY THE US IN WASHINGTON, D.C., MARCH 1- 7, 1977. AT THE END OF THIS CABLE (STARTING WITH PARA 8) WE TRANSMIT THE TEXT OF A PRESS RELEASE ON THE CONFERENCE WHICH THE DEPARTMENT AND NOAA WILL RELEASE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. ACTION REQUESTED OF ADDRESSEES IS FOUND IN PARA 6 BELOW.

2. INVITATIONS TO THE MEETING HAVE BEEN SENT BY UNEP TO ALL MEMBERS, INVITING THE PARTICIPATION OF "AN EXPERT" FROM THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH ARE "ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN OZONE LAYER RESEARCH OR...INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING IN SUCH RESEARCH." (THE INVITATIONS, DATED OCTOBER 29, WERE SENT TO FOREIGN MINISTRIES, OFTEN VIA COUNTRIES' UNEP REPS IN NAIROBI.) APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ARE ALSO BEING INVITED.

3. WHILE THE INVITATION WAS THUS GIVEN BROAD DISTRIBUTION, THE HOPE IS THAT COUNTRIES WILL SEND EXPERTS ONLY (1) IF THE COUNTRY IS INVOLVED IN SOME FACET OF SCIENTIFIC WORK ON THE ISSUE OF OZONE DEPLETION (FROM ANY SOURCE, NOT JUST FLUOROCARBONS); AND (2) IF THE EXPERT CAN SPEAK TO THE UNCLASSIFIED TOTALITY OF HIS GOVERNMENT'S ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD AND ITS INTERESTS AND CAPABILITIES IN PURSUING FURTHER WORK AS PART OF A COORDINATED INTERNATIONAL EFFORT. (WHILE THE MEETING WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO REACH BINDING AGREEMENTS CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FUTURE SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES, IT IS INTENDED THAT IT WILL BE ABLE TO DRAW UP A PLAN FOR COORDINATED FUTURE WORK. IF THE PARTICIPATING EXPERTS ARE NOT ABLE TO PRESENT AN OVERVIEW OF THE WORK BEING DONE IN THEIR COUNTRIES, A GREAT DEAL OF THE VALUE OF THE EXCHANGE THE MEETING HOPES FOR WILL OF COURSE BE LOST.

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4. THE MEETING IS NOT PRIMARILY AIMED AT ANALYZING AND DISCUSSING THE SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE PER SE, BUT RATHER AT LOOKING AT WHAT IS BEING DONE OR PLANNED IN THE WAY OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRAMS. THAT IS, PARTICIPATING EXPERTS SHOULD BE STRONGLY URGED TO COME PREPARED TO DISCUSS WHAT THEIR RESEARCH, AND OTHER RESEARCH BEING CARRIED OUT IN THEIR COUNTRIES' PROGRAMS ARE TARGETED AT, RATHER THAN TO REVIEW THE PRESENT SCIENTIFIC STATE OF THE ART ON THE ISSUES.

(THERE MUST OF COURSE BE SOME STATE OF THE ART ANALYSIS, BUT THE HOPE IS THAT THIS WILL BE PROVIDED BY THE UNEP/ SCOPE OVERVIEW PAPER - AGENDA ITEM 3.)

5. LASTLY, AND VERY IMPORTANT, THE AIM OF THE MEETING IS TO ADDRESS WORK DEALING NOT ONLY WITH THE PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL REACTIONS IN THE STRATOSPHERE, BUT ALSO WITH EFFECTS OF OZONE DEPLETION ON MAN, CLIMATE, PLANTS AND ANIMALS. (THIS IS NOTED IN THE AGENDA ATTACHED TO THE UNEP INVITATION, BUT IS NOT THAT CLEAR IN THE INVITATION ITSELF.)

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DRAWING ON PARAS 3-5 ABOVE, ADDRESSEES ARE REQUESTED TO DISCUSS UPCOMING OZONE MEETING WITH APPROPRIATE HOST GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND SEEK TO STIMULATE APPROPRIATE PARTICIPATION IN THE MEETING BY ONE OR TWO QUALIFIED "EXPERTS". (BASED ON THEIR KNOWLEDGE OF THE LOCAL SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES IN THE GENERAL AREA TO BE COVERED BY THE MEETING, A FEW EUROPEAN ADDRESSEES MAY DECIDE THAT THEIR COUNTRY IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE PROSPECT FOR ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE, AND THEREFORE MAY PROPERLY CHOOSE NOT TO HEED THIS INSTRUCTION.) IN MAKING ANY APPROACH, SCIENCE ATTACHES SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE PRESENTING THE VIEWS OF THE USG AND NOT SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF UNEP. ADDITIONALLY, SHOULD THE QUESTION ARISE, AS THE UNEP INVITATION POINTS OUT, ALL

COSTS OF ATTENDANCE AT THE CONFERENCE MUST BE BORN BY THE PARTICIPANTS.

7. FOR YOUR FURTHER BACKGROUND, THE FOLLOWING IS THE DRAFT TEXT OF THE PRESS RELEASE THE DEPARTMENT AND NOAA PLAN TO ISSUE:
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"U.S. TO HOST INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON THE STRATOSPHERIC OZONE LAYER

INCREASING WORLDWIDE CONCERN ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF HUMAN ACTIVITIES ON CONTAMINATION OF THE STRATOSPHERE HAS LED TO AGREEMENT TO HOLD AN INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON THE STRATOSPHERIC OZONE LAYER IN WASHINGTON, D.C., MARCH 1-9, 1977. THE MEETING IS CONVENED BY THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM (UNEP) AND WILL BE HOSTED BY THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

THE MEETING WILL STRESS THE SCIENTIFIC ASPECTS OF THE ISSUE OF MAN'S IMPACT ON THE OZONE LAYER. SUCH IMPACT RESULTS FROM ACTIVITIES AS DIVERSE AS THE USE OF FLUOROCAR-

BON CHEMICALS AND THE EMISSIONS OF HIGH FLYING AIRCRAFT. CHANGES IN THE OZONE LAYER CAUSED BY SUCH ACTIVITIES MAY IN TURN SIGNIFICANTLY AFFECT MAN AND HIS BIOSPHERE.

THE MEETING WILL BE HELD IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE. THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA), WHICH IS A LEADING U.S. AGENCY IN STRATOSPHERIC OZONE RESEARCH AND MONITORING WILL SERVE AS CO-HOST FOR THE MEETING, WHICH IS BEING HELD IN RESPONSE TO A DECISION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL CALLING FOR A MEETING "OF APPROPRIATE INTERNATIONAL, GOVERNMENTAL AND NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS TO REVIEW ALL ASPECTS OF THE OZONE LAYER, IDENTIFY RELATED ONGOING ACTIVITIES AND FUTURE PLANS, AND AGREE ON A DIVISION OF LABOR AND A COORDINATING MECHANISM" FOR THE CONDUCT OF FUTURE SCIENTIFIC WORK IN THE AREA.

A MAJOR PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WILL BE TO EXAMINE WORK CURRENTLY UNDERWAY OR PLANNED IN VARIOUS COUNTRIES AND INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS. THE MEETING WILL CONSIDER WORK BEING DONE ON THE PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL ASPECTS OF THE OZONE LAYER AS WELL AS THE WIDE RANGE OF KNOWN AND POTENTIAL EFFECTS OF OZONE DEPLETION ON CLIMATE, HEALTH, AGRICULTURE, ETC.

IN ADDITION TO TAKING INVENTORY OF THE INTERNATIONAL
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SCIENTIFIC WORK BEING CONDUCTED ON ISSUES RELATING TO THE OZONE LAYER, THE MEETING WILL SEEK AGREEMENT ON WHETHER

AND WHERE SIGNIFICANT GAPS EXIST, AND WILL MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR COORDINATION OF WORK TO ENSURE THAT OPTIMAL USE IS MADE OF THE RESOURCES AVAILABLE FOR THE STUDY OF THIS IMPORTANT GLOBAL ISSUE. A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME WILL ADVANCE MAN'S UNDERSTANDING AND IMPROVE THE BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE STRATEGIES." ROBINSON

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